

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 10142 271048Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 SIL-01
LAB-04 /145 W

-----051874 271844Z /42

R 271035Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7569
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS LONDON 10142

USEEC
USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, UK, EEC
SUBJECT: BENN REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO EC ENERGY
PROPOSAL

REF: LONDON 8366

ENERGY SECRETARY BENN HAS TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT THE LABOR
GOVERNMENT COULD NEVER ACCEPT EC COMMISSION CONTROL OF
BRITAIN'S OIL REFINING CAPACITY. HE SPECIFICALLY RULED
OUT A DEAL WHEREBY THE COMMISSION'S REFINERY CAPACITY
PROPOSALS MIGHT BE EXCHANGED FOR AN EXPANSION OF BRITISH
COAL EXPORTS TO THE EC. BENN SAID BRITAIN WAS ON THE
WAY TO BECOMING THE TENTH LARGEST OIL PRODUCER IN THE
WORLD AND WAS ALREADY THE EC'S LARGEST AND CHEAPEST COAL
PRODUCER; THUS COMMISSION PROPOSALS MADE TO DATE WERE
"UNNECESSARY AND UNHELPFUL." HE SAID IT WAS ALREADY EC
POLICY THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN EXPANDED MARKET FOR U.K.
COAL IN THE EC AND THEREFORE ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN COAL
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AND LIMITS ON BRITISH REFINING CAPACITY COULD BE "VERY
DAMAGING" FOR THE U.K.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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